

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A vehicle comprising;

an operator space,

a cross beam (16),

a pedal arm (20),

a support bracket (18) supported by the vehicle (24) and pivotally supporting said pedal arm (20) forward of said operator space for operational movement in an operating range between a forward brake applying position and a rearward release position, and

a crash control device (60) including a spring member having resilient characteristics mounted to said cross beam (16) and disposed between said cross beam (16) and said pedal arm (20) for interacting between said cross beam (16) and said pedal arm (20) in the event of rearward movement of said pedal arm (20) out of said range to limit movement of said pedal arm (20) toward said operator space.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~An assembly~~ A vehicle as set forth in claim 16

[[17]] wherein said spring member includes a curved portion disposed ~~crash control device (60) comprises a curved leaf spring disposed~~ between said cross beam (16) and said pedal arm (20).

20. (Currently Amended) ~~An assembly~~ A vehicle as set forth in claim 16

[[17]] wherein said spring member ~~crash control device (60)~~ comprises a plastic member consisting of an organic polymeric material ~~and disposed between said cross beam (16) and said pedal arm (20).~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~An assembly~~ A vehicle as set forth in claim 20

wherein said plastic member includes a honeycombed (62, 64) structure.

22. (New) A crash relief system for a vehicle having an operator space and a cross beam (16), said system comprising;

a pedal arm (20),

a support bracket pivotally supporting said pedal arm (20) for operational movement in an operating range between a forward brake applying position and a rearward release position, and

a crash control device (60) including a spring member having resilient characteristics for mounting to the cross beam (16) forward of said pedal arm (20) to interact between the cross beam (16) and said pedal arm (20),

said spring member being spaced from said pedal arm (20) as said pedal arm (20) moves in said operating range between said forward and rearward positions and said spring member engaging said pedal arm (20) in the event of rearward movement of said pedal arm (20) out of said operating range to limit movement of said pedal arm (20) toward the operator space.

23. (New) A system as set forth in claim 22 wherein said spring member includes a curved portion.

24. (New) A system as set forth in claim 22 wherein said spring member is further defined as a curved leaf spring.

25. (New) A system as set forth in claim 22 wherein said spring member comprises a plastic member consisting of an organic polymeric material.

26. (New) A system as set forth in claim 25 wherein said plastic member includes a honeycombed (62, 64) structure.

27. (New) A vehicle comprising;
an operator space,
a cross beam (16),
a pedal arm (20),
a support bracket (18) supported by the vehicle (24) and pivotally supporting said pedal arm (20) forward of said operator space for operational movement in an operating range between a forward brake applying position and a rearward release position, and
a crash control device (60) including a curved leaf spring disposed between said cross beam (16) and said pedal arm (20) for interacting between said cross beam (16) and said pedal arm (20) in the event of rearward movement of said pedal arm (20) out of said range to limit movement of said pedal arm (20) toward said operator space.

28. (New) A vehicle as set forth in claim 27 wherein said curved leaf spring comprises a plastic member consisting of an organic polymeric material.

29. (New) A vehicle as set forth in claim 28 wherein said plastic member includes a honeycombed (62, 64) structure.